

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK

Policy Council Minutes July 24, 2002

Members/Representatives Present:

- Charles Adams, Community Services Department
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Karen Bell, District Attorney
- Jeff Broyde, Public Defender's Office
- Randy Schulz for Cathy Cimbalo, Director, Department of Children's Services
- Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
- Janet Cullen, Dept. of Children's Services
- Narciso Cardona, City Schools
- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- James Entz, Department of Behavioral Health
- Jerry Farber, Public Defender Office
- Dennis Hansberger, 3rd District Supervisor
- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network
- Terry Kramer, Department of Behavioral Health
- Ivy Lewis, imPACCT Project - Children's Network
- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Susanne Montgomery, Loma Linda University
- Tom Moore, Department of Children's Services
- Clark Morrow, SBSD
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Thomas Prendergast, M.D. - Department of Public Health
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation Department
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Judy Steppins, San Bernardino County Library
- Julian Weaver, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Ray Wingerd, Chief of Probation
- Edward Rowe, Children's Network
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:08 p.m. and convened by Supervisor Dennis Hansberger in the Citrus Room, Fifth Floor, County Government Center.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Supervisor Hansberger welcomed those present and self-introductions were made. Carol Anselmi was congratulated on her promotion to Assistant Administrative Officer.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved with the following changes:

- Take off 4.1 Children's Fund - Bonnie O'Connor not available to report.
- Take off 4.2 Child Care Planning Council Coordinator - Anthony Rubio not available to today.
- Add CSOC Update by Kent Paxton and Paula Roby
- Add discussion about child abduction issues per Supervisor Aguiar, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Motion was made to approve the amended agenda with no objection to the order.

3.0 Approval of June 26, 2002 Minutes

June 26, 2002 minutes were approved as submitted.

4.0 Information Items

CSOC

Kent reported that we still do not know where we stand with the state budget. The Governor has planned to cut CSOC (Children's System of Care) out of the state budget. As mentioned at the last meeting, Rudy Lopez, Director of Department of Behavioral Health is committed to the CSOC program and sees the value of providing services to high-risk youth. Kent mentioned that it is time to renew the MOU, but will hold off until the State budget is final. There may be a need for more partners to help provide in-kind and match funding. Kent reported an updated MOU would be brought back to this group in September.

Kent indicated plans to create a new MDT for Department of Children's Services, Probation, Department of Behavioral Services, and Inland Regional Center to develop a system dealing with high-risk youth from the ages of 16 to 18. The goal to provide these youth with services to keep them out of long-term care. Kent mentioned that Edward Rowe a Social Services Practitioner can dedicate some of his time to this project.

Paula Roby reported that Edward might need to look at funding sources for these youth entering adulthood, because many of the funding streams are cut off as youth enters adulthood. She added that there might be work needed on the needs assessment.

4.1 Children's Fund Report

Bonnie O'Connor will come back in September with a full annual report.

4.2 Child Care Planning Council Coordinator

Kent reported Children's Network is happy to have Anthony Rubio join us as the Child Care Planning Council Coordinator. He will join us in September.

4.3 Annual Conference Update

Susan Melanson reported everyone received a conference registration brochure today for the conference. Susan mentioned that the conference would be a nice respite day with some interesting workshops. Three of the workshops will be translated in Spanish. Susan mentioned you could contact her about availability of sponsorships for families. Susan thanked everyone for his or her assistance. The next conference committee meeting will be at the Ontario Convention Center on August 12th.

Supervisor Fred Aguiar, Chairman of Fourth District came to the meeting to speak for a few minutes about Child Abduction issues. Supervisor Aguiar received a telephone call from the Sun Newspaper about this county's Child Abduction program. Orange County implemented a Child Abduction Network in 1999. The State is now doing a study on how to implement a statewide Child Abduction Network. Supervisor Aguiar suggested it would be a good idea to form a committee of staff from: Sheriff; Department of Children's Services; Children's Network; Probation, and CAO (County Administrative Office) to work in conjunction with the state to form an Child Abduction Alert System. Supervisor Aguiar also suggested we might want to include radio and television stations. Supervisor Aguiar suggested we keep staff knowledgeable at all times how to handle child abduction issues.

Kent agreed to:

- Have his staff contact Orange County Child Abduction Network and get information from them.
- Kent mentioned that David Wert should be involved along with the radio and t.v. stations.

Kent sees the Sheriff's Offices as the clearinghouse for information on missing children.

- Another suggestion was to invite local police departments and schools to be involved in the discussion.
- Kent agreed to bring back a report in September

4.4 Teen Pregnancy Reduction Project Summary

Ivy Lewis of imPACCT Project gave the following highlights of the last seven years of the program:

- Ivy referred everyone to the two handouts that gave more of the detailed history of the program.
- Two years of the program has focused on needs and assets.
- The imPACCT program fits nicely into the Department of Public Health Program, PALS (Perinatal & Adolescent Life Section).
- The PALS program staff will continue to go to the high schools and facilitate the lunchtime program.
- The imPACCT program was demonstrated at a national meeting this summer at Atlanta, Georgia.
- There will be five programs continuing with the rollover money before the current program ends on September 30th.
- Three evaluators from San Francisco came to interview staff and outside agencies that have been involved with the ImPACCT program.

Susanne Montgomery of the Loma Linda University School of Public Health Evaluation and Research Unit gave the following highlights of the last seven years of the program:

- Susanne complimented Kent Paxton for his leadership over the last seven years.
- The imPACCT program has taken on the task to organize the community to collaborate and provide direct services to the youth. The imPACCT program itself does not provide direct services.
- Loma Linda University Medical Center Research Unit has begun Compiling their report on the seven-year project.
- The CDC (Center for Disease Control) was the funder for this grant.

- Susanne, Ivy Lewis and graduate students will be making presentations for the next year.
- Susanne and Ivy will be reviewing the data and developing a youth assessment to present to the public. The presentations will cover what has been learned in the last seven years of the project.

Kent Paxton reported the project has been a tremendous amount of work over the last seven years. Teen pregnancy has complicated solutions. When the project began seven years ago, the pregnancy rate was 140% per 1,000 in target area. There has been a steady decline in pregnancy in this region. Kent invited Ivy and Susanne to bring their final data and reports to this group.

- Dr. Prendergast suggested the results from the thirteen other agencies throughout the nation might be interesting to Policy Council members.
- There was some general discussion about the imPACCT lunchtime program.
- Teens are referred to the lunch time program who are considered high risk by their counselors.
- The teens are linked to services and activities that are helpful to them.
- The hope is that the teens get involved with their communities, etc. and are busy in productive activities.
- There was also a very powerful photo exhibit.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

5.1 Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Contract Recommendations. Action is requested to forward the PSSF Contract recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

In Jeff Wagner's absence, Janet Cullen reported the highlights of the contract:

- The HSS (Human Services System) Contract Unit assists DCS Department of Children's Services to look for resources to assist families on the caseloads.
- The funding for these contracts comes from the Federal Government by the Public Act 10589.
- The amount of the funding is 2.1 million dollars to allocate to various agencies.
- The criteria for the agencies providing service is to; promote safety, prevention of child abuse and neglect services, create stable and permanence for families, and produce outcome measures.

- The RFP (Request for Proposal) required agencies to provide/contract services in the Family Resource model.
- Thirteen proposals were submitted from agencies.
- A team of evaluators reviewed the proposals for the minimum requirements and ranked for recommendation of funding. The recommended funding was by geographical region.
- It was reported that \$600,000 is set aside from last years' contracts.
- The \$600,000 is proposed for outcome measures, for an additional RFP or MOU to give access to other agencies, augment current funding of the current contractors, look for service gaps. A final decision will be made by October 1st, or the new funding cycle to begin.

A motion was made and approved to forward the contract recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

6.0 Other

Kent reported that a small workgroup would be meeting in August to go over the Children's Network work plan and annual report.

7.0 Public Comment

8.0 Adjournment

This group will not meet in August. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 25, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Williams
Children's Network Policy Council Recording Secretary

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